

Agenda
Taxicab Advisory Group (TAG)
Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 2:30 pm
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW 1 Street, Miami FL 33130
18th Floor
18-3 Conference Room

(PLEASE NOTE THE LOCATION OF THE MEETING)

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting**
- 3. Technology Matrix**
- 4. Adjournment**

2010 Meeting Dates: (4th Tuesdays at 2:00 pm)

April 27, 2010

July 27, 2010

October 26, 2010

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Minutes of the Taxicab Advisory Group (TAG)
January 26, 2010 - 2:30 PM
140 W Flagler Street, Room #908

Members Present:

Rolando Aedo
Les Eisenberg
Diego Feliciano
Jerry Moskowitz
William Samek, Ph.D.
Dawood Akhtar
Monica Beltran
Ilene Hyams
Fred Wong, Jr.
Robert Singer

Visitor Industry Representative
PSC Principal
License Holder
PSC Principal
Consumer/Chairperson
Chauffeur
MIA Representative
Office of ADA Coordination Representative
Seaport Representative
Consumer

Members Absent:

Eugenio Rivas

Driver Representative

Staff Present:

Cathy Peel
Joe Mora
David Iglesias
Steven Bobes
Ivan Cotayo
Nancy Perez
Bridgette Newsome

Director, CSD
Director, PTRD
Legal Advisor
AO3, PTRD
Taxi Stand Coordinator
Senior Executive Secretary, CSD
Secretary, PTRD

Dr. Samek called the meeting to order, and welcomed everyone. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. Dr. Samek asked about the procedure to be followed when a member missed two consecutive meetings. Mr. Iglesias reviewed the TAG rules on filling vacancies. Mr. Aedo corrected the minutes stating that he was present at the last TAG meeting. Mr. Moskowitz moved to accept the minutes subject to the correction. This was seconded and approved by all.

Chauffeur of the 2nd Qtr. of 2009:

Ms. Hyams nominated 4-5 as Chauffeur of the 4th Quarter of 2009. Ms. Beltran seconded. Ms. Hyams nominated 3-3 as Chauffeur of the Year 2009. Ms. Beltran seconded and all agreed with the nominations.

Census: Ms. Hyams encouraged participation in the upcoming census stating that the Federal Government uses the numbers to allocate funds (\$400 million) for social services, transit, roads, health care, etc. An undercount would mean less funds being allocated to the County and the census also determines the number of representatives the County has.

Taxi Stands Update: Mr. Mora stated that since the last report, two 3-car stands and five 1-car stands were created in addition to three temporary stands for special events (NADSCAR, Art Basel and the Phish Concert). There are now a total of 173 taxi stands with 427 spaces,

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excluding MIA and Port of Miami. Staff said the information is available on the website as well as in the Taxicab Guide. Mr. Les Eisenberg stated he was considering making a iPhone application that shows the taxicab stands. Mr. Jerry Moskowitz moved to commend staff for the major improvements in creating and maintaining taxi stands in Miami Dade County. Mr. Les Eisenberg seconded, and all were in favor.

Standardized Reporting Technique (SRT): Ms. Peel said that one of the specific duties of the TAG and one of the specific duties and obligations of the CSD Director is to have an SRT for operators, after consultation with the TAG. A form was distributed that requests information regarding, number of calls, number of dispatches, wheelchair trips, and North and South Dade trips. Every PSC is required to supply the required information on a monthly basis.

Mr. Moskowitz suggested a standardized form to report complaints from drivers to the CSD. After discussion staff agreed to produce the required form detailing required information. The topic of Buying of Doors was raised. Staff reported that nine (9) drivers have recently received suspensions for BOD. Mr. Ahktar suggested that staff meet with hotel personnel to discuss the problem. Ms. Peel stated that a new director has been appointed for the Greater Miami & the Beaches Hotel Association and she would meet with and apprise her of the situation. Additionally, each year a letter is sent to the hotel owners, general managers and concierge and valet staff, informing them of regulations pertaining to BOD. A copy of the letter was requested for the next meeting.

Further discussion was tabled to discuss the remaining items on the agenda.

Technology: Ms. Peel provided and summarized a matrix indicating staff recommendations for technology including a timeframe for implementation. There was general agreement that the technology in the matrix was needed but the following concerns were raised:

Concern 1: PSCs who do not currently have radio dispatch systems:

Proposed Solution: Subscribe to a larger company and place the number of that company on the vehicle.

Concern 2: Funding

Proposed Solution: provide incentives for compliance; allow advertisement in the cab to pay for the equipment; companies that do not currently have dispatch systems should be grandfathered.

Concern 3: When it is required that every taxi driver have the same system of communication and must pay for it and does not use it, this creates a problem.

Concern 4: Camera system is too expensive for the driver. Drivers prefer to have cameras pointed outside of the vehicle.

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Ms. Peel suggested that a special meeting be convened to further discuss and finalize. Everyone agreed.

Frequency of Inspections: Mr. Feliciano stated that because of economic conditions he was recommending that inspections be reduced. He said that in most cities there are no more than two inspections. Mr. Les Eisenberg disagreed, stating that companies are receiving maximum productivity from the vehicles as a result of inspections four times/year and that replacement of vehicles would be more frequent with fewer inspections. Mr. Moskowitz agreed with the current frequency of inspections and stated he had a recent problem with the fees he had to pay at the inspection station.

Illegal Operations in Homestead: Mr. Les Eisenberg introduced a driver (Robert Rios) who works in the Homestead area and who reported that there are more than 25 vehicles that operate illegally in Homestead. Staff reported that illegal operators in the Homestead area have been given citations. Ms. Peel asked Mr. Rios for his help in identifying the illegal operators so that enforcement operations can be intensified. Mr. Les Eisenberg stated the problem became worse when the South Dade drivers were allowed to move to Kendall and if we punish the illegal operators the passengers will have no means of transportation.

Mora stated that part of the problem was that when people called for a cab, they did not readily get one and they turned to others to provide service. He also said that some of the legal drivers worked with the illegal drivers. He agreed that a reliable taxicab service is needed in the area and this is the reason technology is important.

Someone suggested an incentive for drivers in that area by reducing the cost of radio service. A South Dade driver said that there are no jobs in Homestead area. His solution was to allow South Dade drivers to operate Countywide. Another driver reported the same problem. Mr. Terry Eisenberg recommended that drivers work the areas where they live, i.e. South Dade drivers work in the south and North Dade drivers work in the north. Mr. Feliciano suggested that an enforcement officer be assigned to Mr. Rios for observation purposes. He also remarked that the illegal operators have no insurance, etc. and that is very dangerous and that Homestead officials should be made aware of this problem.

Ms. Peel suggested dates for the meeting to discuss technology and the date agreed upon was February 16, 2010 at 2:30 pm.

There being no other business, Mr. Moskowitz made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Feliciano.

PROPOSED TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE II and V, CHAPTER 31
This highlights major areas and does not list all proposed changes.

Subject	Proposed Requirements	Proposed Standards	Responsible party	Implement	Comments
Dispatch	Passenger service companies (PSC) shall provide 24/365 fixed base dispatch service.	<p>-PSC shall provide mobile two-way radio or electronic dispatch system.</p> <p>-PSC shall operate fixed-base dispatch center 24/365 including a global positioning system.</p>	PSC 31-100(b)	365 days	
	All taxicabs shall be connected to 24/365 fixed base dispatch center.	<p>-Equip vehicle with mobile two-way radio or electronic dispatch system.</p> <p>-Connect and subscribe to PSC with fixed-base dispatch center operating 24/365 with a GPS system.</p> <p>-Dispatcher shall communicate with chauffeur during all hours of vehicle operation.</p>	License-holder 31-82 (j)(17)	365 days	
Credit Card Processing System	Each taxicab shall be equipped with credit card processing system.	<p>-System shall allow passenger to utilize card in rear compartment of taxi.</p> <p>-System shall include printed receipt containing fare charged, name and phone of PSC, permit number, chauffeur number, date and time of transaction and phone number for filing complaints/complaints with CSD.</p> <p>-System linked to taximeter and contains GPS.</p> <p>-System will include module that displays itemized fare information with touch screen capability.</p> <p>-No additional charge added to fare for use of credit card.</p> <p>-No minimum charge for using credit card.</p>	License-holder 31-89(b)(7)	180 days	

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		-System shall be PCI compliant.			
Taximeters	Taximeter upgrade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Customer receipts generated by taximeter or other electronic device. -No handwritten receipts. -All taximeters programmed with approved special service rates (flat fares). 	License-holder 31-86(a)	180 days	
Digital Security Camera System	Each taxicab, except certain owner-driver vehicles, will be equipped with digital camera.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Equip vehicles with digital security camera system. -<i>Owner-driver who is sole driver of vehicle not required to equip vehicle with camera system.</i> -Record undistorted still images for identification purposes. -Recording unit and cables installed under dash board and concealed from view. -Each image shall display the time/date, vehicle number, trigger source and recording unit serial number. -ISO certified camera and system. -Unit storage capacity of 7,000 images with system overwriting oldest images first. -Image capture linked to: vehicle door openings and closings, meter engagement and activation of emergency switch linked to camera system. -System ready light visible from outside of driver door. -Camera housing and mounting shall be tamper proof and shock resistant. -Camera system shall have connection ports for a 	License-holder 31-89(b)(6)	180 days	

PROPOSED TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS

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			minimum of 2 cameras (1 camera required).			
			-Image access solely to law enforcement.			
			-Notice of a camera system and privacy notice prominently placed in vehicle.			
Warning Light System	Each taxicab, except certain owner-driver vehicles, will be equipped with warning light system.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Equip vehicles with warning light system. -<i>Owner-driver who is sole driver of vehicle not required to equip vehicle with warning light system.</i> -Warning light system shall consist of two devices. -Devices mounted on top-front center of vehicle or grill and on top of rear bumper to the left of the license plate. -Device will display flashing red lights when activated by chauffeur. -Flashing red lights shall shine towards the roadway. 	License-holder 31-89(b)(13)	180 days	
Sunpass	Each taxicab shall contain a Sunpass sticker		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sunpass sticker must be permanently affixed. -Sunpass account must be maintained current and valid. -8CC fine \$100.00 	Operator 31-85(k)	90 days	
Sunpass	Chauffeur shall use Sunpass.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Each chauffeur shall be required to use Sunpass or its equivalent when transporting passengers. -8CC fine \$50.00 	Chauffeur 31-303(i)(23)	90 days	